

Replacing 3.3 miles of water pipe backed

\$1.3M project will be on fall warrant

By John Chaffee
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DUXBURY — Selectmen last night agreed that the town should spend at least \$1.3 million to replace 3.3 miles of pipe to reduce drinking water contamination.

And that is just the beginning of a seven-phase program recommended by the town's advisory committee on water quality. The plan calls for replacing 17.1 miles of the town's 120 miles of water pipe over five years at an estimated cost of \$7 million.

The vinyl-lined asbestos-cement pipes that the committee recommends be replaced are leaching larger-than-acceptable amounts of perchloroethylene, or PCE, a suspected carcinogen, into the drinking water supply in various parts of town.

Duxbury

In receiving the final report of the advisory committee on water quality, which they appointed in March, selectmen informally agreed to support the first phase of the recommended pipe replacement program.

"I don't think we should hesitate in going forward to do Phase 1," Selectman Friend Weiler said.

"I would replace your pipes tomorrow, if we could, but that's not possible," Selectmen Chairwoman Margaret Kearney.

Instead, she said, the selectmen will prepare an article for a special town meeting in September.

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Weiler warned the 36 residents who attended the meeting that the article will need a two-thirds-majority vote to pass because it will call for borrowing the money needed to replace the pipes.

If approved, the cost will be added to water user fees; the town's property tax rate would not be affected.

Jeffrey Dierks, an environmental engineer with the advisory committee's consulting firm, Camp Dresser & McKee, said if town meeting approves, work could begin in April 1998.

The initial replacement phase would include pipes under Cottontail Drive, The Marshes, the Plantation Drive subdivision, Seabury Point Road, Southgate through Deerfield Trail North, Stockade Path, Stonegate Lane and the Tinkertown Ponds subdivision.

Selectman Andre Martecchini said that although he favored funding Phase 1, he could not support an effort to have town meeting approve the full

\$7 million pipe replacement program.

Meanwhile, PCE levels have been reduced to safe levels by placing 12 bleeders in the eight Phase 1 areas.

The bleeders keep water flowing in otherwise dead-end pipes, thereby reducing the buildup of PCE.

In other business, selectmen:

- Revoked the license that had allowed Roland P. Leary, owner of the former South Shore Pumping Co. property, to keep and store flammable liquids in three underground and one above-ground tank at 789 Mayflower St.

Leary, who owes the town nearly \$47,000 in back taxes on the property, could not be contacted for the hearing.

"My primary concern is that those tanks are sitting over the aquifer and we badly want to get those tanks out of the ground," Fire Chief William Hariman said. He estimated that the tanks have not been used since 1991.

- Witnessed Loring "Chuck" Nudd being sworn in as a full-time firefighter. Nudd, 32, a native of Duxbury and a graduate of Duxbury High School, has been a call firefighter since 1989.